

Central Coast tri-county region produces approximately \$4.5 billion in agriculture goods each year

Washington, DC – Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) today was named ranking member of the Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies. The Appropriations Agriculture Subcommittee has legislative jurisdiction over most of the Department of Agriculture as well as the Food and Drug Administration, which is located in the Department of Health and Human Services.

"The Central Coast is home to one of the most rich and diverse agriculture regions in the nation," said Congressman Sam Farr. "This unique opportunity allows me to help steer the course of Agriculture policy in our country, and gives me the right tools to support our local farms and famers."

As ranking member, Congressman Farr will serve as the most senior Democrat on the Appropriations Agriculture subcommittee. As such, he is responsible for setting the Democratic agenda under the committee's jurisdiction.

"This is great news," said Grower-Shippier Association of Central California President and

General Counsel Jim Bogart. "Sam Farr has been a strong support of agriculture in general, and a champion of Central Coast agriculture in particular. We look forward to continuing our collaborative and effective working relationship with Congressman Farr in 2011 and the years to come. I couldn't be happier."

Congressman Farr has served on the House Appropriations Committee since 1999, after being elected to serve by the Democratic Caucus. The position on the House Appropriations Agriculture Subcommittee provides the opportunity to shape national agriculture funding priorities to benefit organic and fresh fruit and vegetable industries, as well as highlight rural development needs.

California is the nation's largest agriculture production state, and the Central Coast counties of Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz produce approximately \$4.5 billion in agricultural goods each year. Monterey County alone produces more than 85 crops with a value of \$3.8 billion.

"As a veteran lawmaker from a California County that is the third largest agricultural producer in the state, Congressman Farr has in-depth knowledge of the diverse needs of agriculture," said Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner Eric Lauritzen. "Having Congressman Farr in this vitally important position in the U.S. Congress places him at the epicenter of critical deliberations on funding issues that will directly impact the next farm bill, food safety implementation and nutrition programs."

##